

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A revision system for a network having a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, said revision system comprising:

a computer processor;

a plurality of port plates corresponding to and disposed proximately to at least a plurality of said data ports;

a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said port plates for determining information therefrom;

a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor; and

a probe for connecting to respective ones of said plurality of local system ports and respective ones of said plurality of port plates, whereby when said probe is connected to one of said local system ports and one of said port plates, said probe may thereby display information about a corresponding one of said data ports in said system.

2. A revision system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said plurality of data ports are distributed over and disposed upon a plurality of network racks and each of said racks includes at least one local system port disposed proximately thereto.

3. A revision system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said system further includes a second probe for connecting to respective ones of said plurality of local system ports and respective ones of said port plates, wherein when said second probe is connected to one of said local system

ports and one of said port plates, said second probe may thereby display information about a corresponding one of said data ports in said system, said second probe being able to function on said revision system simultaneously with said other probe.

4. A revision system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said scanner periodically polls all of said data ports in said system.

5. A probe for use in a revision system including a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, a computer processor, port plates corresponding to and disposed proximately to at least a plurality of said data ports, a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said port plates for determining information therefrom, and a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor, said probe comprising:

a system port connector for enabling connection with respective ones of said local system ports;

a port plate connector for enabling connection with respective ones of said port plates; and

an indicator for conveying information to the user information regarding the status of the revision system.

6. A probe in accordance with claim 5 wherein said indicator includes a visual indicator.

7. A probe in accordance with claim 6 wherein said visual indicator includes a light-emitting diode.

8. A probe in accordance with claim 6 wherein said visual indicator includes a liquid crystal display.

9. A probe in accordance with claim 6 wherein said visual indicator includes a color display screen.

10. A probe in accordance with claim 5 wherein one of said data ports includes a patch cord plug inserted therein, said patch cord plug including a plug extension for contacting said corresponding port plate when said patch cord plug is inserted in said data port.

11. A probe in accordance with claim 10 wherein said patch cord plug includes a plug plate thereon, said plug plate being connectable to said probe.

12. A probe in accordance with claim 11 wherein said probe includes a specialized connector for contacting said plug plate.

13. A method for obtaining information regarding the status of a revision system, said revision system including a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, a computer processor, port plates corresponding to and disposed proximately to at least a plurality of said data ports, a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said port plates for determining

information therefrom, and a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a probe having a system port connector, a port plate connector, and an indicator;

- connecting said system port connector to one of said plurality of local system ports;

- connecting said data port connector to one of said port plates in said system; and

- observing said indicator to obtain information regarding the status of said revision system.